Registered No. M-4345

MADRAS WAR REVIEW

(FOR THE USE OF PROPAGANDA SUB-COMMITTEES)

Vol. II | Friday, May 9, 1941 | Issue No. 19

DIARY OF THE WAR

AIR ACTIVITY OVER ENGLAND AND GERMANY

2nd May.—The Royal Air Force made a daylight raid on the German submarine base of Den Helder in Holland. Two enemy supply ships were accounted for.

3rd May.—The Germans admitted extensive damage by a heavy Royal Air Force raid on Hamburg.

Five Nazi bombers were shot down when the enemy raided the Merseyside.

4th May.—Sixteen German bombers were shot down in a concentrated attack by the German air force on the Merseyside.

The Royal Air Force bombed Cologne and other towns in Germany and occupied countries. The German battle cruisers Scharnhorst and Gneisenau were again attacked at Brest.

5th May.—Helped by the moonlight, the Royal Air Force took a heavy toll of German shipping from the coast of Norway to the coast of Britanny. Direct hits were scored on an enemy supply ship in a convoy off Skaggerak.

Eight enemy planes were destroyed during a German raid on Liverpool and Merseyside. Belfast in Northern Ireland was also raided.

6th May.—The Royal Air Force attacked Mannheim and other industrial towns in the Middle Rhine district. Aerodromes near Stavanger in Norway and coastal towns in France were also raided.

The German air force attacked the Dover balloon barrage but two bombers were shot down; Nazi airmen also raided Clydeside.

7th May.—Hamburg was again the principal target of Royal Air Force raids on Germany. Le Havre and the Frisian Islands were also attacked and an enemy supply ship sunk.

The German air force concentrated its attack on the Clydeside for the fourth night in succession.

8th May.—The record number of 23 German aircraft were destroyed in the night raids on Britain.

The Royal Air Force dropped heavy armour-piercing bombs on the German battle cruisers sheltering at Brest; and also raided Bremen, St. Nazaire and the Loire estuary.

AFRICA AND THE MEDITERRANEAN

2nd May.—The British Imperial troops at Tobruk launched a successful counter-attack on the enemy.

3rd May.—General Smuts announced that South African troops would take part in the Battle for Egypt.

British Imperial forces in Abyssinia captured Waldia, 50 miles north of Dessie; Bahr-dar at the extreme south of Lake Tsna; and Derbub near Amba Alagi.

The Royal Air Force raided enemy posts in Libya and Abyssinia and sank a destroyer and a merchantship in the Mediterranean.

4th May.—British mechanised forces in the Sollum area made a successful raid on the enemy.

5th May.—It was reported that Indian troops had advanced 250 miles south of Asmara into the mountain fastnesses of Northern Abyssinia.

6th May.—Exactly five years after the Italian occupation of Addis Ababa, Emperor Haile Selassie returned in triumph to his capital city.

The Royal Air Force made a terrific attack on the harbour at Benghazi and the aerodromes at Benina and three other towns in Libya.

An enemy air raid on Alexandria was beaten off by guns of the warships in the harbour and by the ground defences.

7th May.—British Imperial troops occupied Quoram in Abyssinia, taking a number of prisoners including one General.

8th May.—Emperor Haile Selassie offered the British Government the use of the Abyssinian forces on any front where they might be required.

The Italians evacuated Deberech in Central Abyssinia.

There were no casualties when enemy planes bombed the Suez Canal Zone.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE ATLANTIC

2nd May.—Lord Halifax conferred with Mr. Sumner Welles, the U.S. Assistant Secretary of State.

The *Baltimore Sun* said that the hour of decision for the U.S. had come and that Britain must not stand alone.

3rd May.—President Roosevelt, in a letter to Messrs. Knudsen and Hillman, Defence Production Chiefs, asked that production of machine tools be expedited, that the defence industry work 24 hours a day and seven days a week and that the nation be combed for idle machine-tools to be placed in defence production.

Workers in U.S. defence industry were urged to forego their usual summer holidays in exchange for a bonus or a special increase in wages.

The B.B.C. reported the arrival in Suez of 26 American merchant ships, heavily laden with arms and ammunition for the British forces in the Middle East.

4th May.—Mr. Wendell Willkie urged that U.S. should convoy supplies to Britain as the present " sea patrol is inadequate."

Col. Knox, U.S. Navy Secretary, said that within 90 days, United States' production of military equipment would exceed that of any other country in the world.

Speaking at the dedication of the late President Wilson's birthplace as a national shrine, President Roosevelt said that the American people had fought before and were " ever ready to fight again " for the existence of democracy in the world.

5th May.—The United States coast guard took certain precautions to ensure that Yugoslav ships in American ports remained loyal to King Peter and his Government in exile.

6th May.—The Chairman of the Naval Affairs Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives expressed himself in favour of convoying arms shipments across the Atlantic by American warships.

The Mexican Foreign Minister pledged the help of his country to other American Republics in opposing totalitarian expansion.

President Roosevelt, who conferred with Cabinet Ministers and the heads of the Army and the Navy, asked Mr. Stimson, Secretary for War, to obtain " a substantial increase in heavy bomber production " in order to see that " democratic superiority in the air is made absolute."

7th May.—Mr. Stimson, United States Secretary for War, in a nationwide broadcast, urged the immediate use of the American Navy to make the seas secure for the delivery of munitions to Britain.

The Australian Premier Mr. Menzies declared on his arrival in New York that the war was as much American's as it was the British Empire's.

Senator Vandenberg stated that only 8 out of the 205 ships that left American ports with supplies for Britain were sunk in the first three months of this year.

GREECE AND ITALY

3rd May.—Two small British destroyers were dive-bombed and sunk during the evacuation from Greece.

Italy announced the annexation of the North - Western part of Yugoslavia adjoining the Italian border. It would be known as the Province of Ljubljana.

5th May.—The Greek Prime Minister, M. Tsouderos, announced that the Allied Forces in Crete would be under the command of Major-General Freyberg, Commander-in-Chief of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force.

6th May.—Lord Moyne, Colonial Secretary, revealed that the Empire's total losses in Greece amounted at the most to 11,500, of whom a large proportion were cut off from re-embarkation; that the German losses had been colossal; and that the Imperial Troops had removed all their light equipment after destroying heavy armament likely to be of help to the enemy.

Greek submarines and torpedo-boats reached Alexandria to join the British Fleet there.

German troops occupied the Greek islands of Mitylene and Chios south of the Dardanelles.

The Greek Government dismissed five " Quisling " Generals.

BALKANS, TURKEY, IRAQ, IRAN, ETC.

2nd May.—The British were compelled to take counter-measures when Iraqi artillery started shelling the British air base at Habbaniyah.

The Iranian Ambassador to Turkey denied reports of troop movements on either side of the Iran-Soviet border.

President Ineunu returned to Istanbul after inspecting the Western Anatolian defences.

The Royal Yugoslav Government issued orders to all Yugoslav ships at sea to go to British or U.S. ports.

3rd May.—The Ankara Radio reported that Iraqi forces were in control of oil-wells and installations in Mosul and that they had flooded oil-fields. The lawful Regent Abdul Ilah was stated to be gathering forces in Transjordania with a view to marching into Iraq and ousting the military clique who had usurped power. Turkey moved troops and planes into defensive positions in the Taurus Mountains (through which the Baghdad Railway line runs into Turkey).

4th May.—Hitler, addressing the Reichstag, defended German moves in the Balkans in a jejune speech. Vigorous action by the Royal Air Force in Iraq was reported as well as the expulsion of Iraqi forces from Basra.

5th May.—The Yugoslav Government, in their first authoritative statement after leaving the country, declared their determination to fight on by the side of the Allies. Sir Reginald Hoare was appointed British Minister to the Yugoslav Government.

The Egyptian Government, in an appeal to the Iraqi authorities, urged a speedy settlement of the dispute with Britain. It was announced that the British Government had rejected the Turkish Government's offer to mediate, pointing out that Iraqi troops must be withdrawn from Habbaniyah before any negotiations could be undertaken.

6th May.—Turkey took measures to fortify and secure the Turko-Iranian frontier.

7th May.—British Forces in Iraq captured Fort Rutbah. It was revealed that the Iraqi rebel troops were running short of ammunition.

8th May.—The Royal Air Force bombed Baghdad airport. Rashid Ali hurriedly left Baghdad after a public demonstration against his movement.

SHIPPING

2nd May.—It was revealed that the German U-boat commander who sank the battleship Royal Oak and 200,000 tons of merchant shipping, was missing.

3rd May.—The Admiralty announced the loss of the armed merchant cruiser Voltaire (13,245 tons).

2

THE FAR EAST

3rd May.—Japanese aircraft raiding Chungking were met by a barrage of anti-aircraft fire.

4th May.—Chinese forces stormed and re-occupied the important ports of Wenchow and Haimen (in the Province of Chekiang) which the Japanese had occupied a fortnight ago.

Mr. Matsuoka, Japan's Foreign Minister, rejected suggestions that he should go to U.S. to ascertain at first hand the American attitude to Far East problems.

5th May.—Mr. Matsuoka said " My peace policy towards the U.S. remains unaltered."

The Chinese Military Mission that toured India and Burma, arrived in Malaya on a visit to Singapore.

6th May.—Japanese detachments claimed an advance in Northern Honan.

Japan and Indo-China signed an economic agreement at Tokyo, incorporating " the most favoured nation " treatment.

The Dutch Foreign Minister, in a farewell broadcast to the people of the Dutch East Indies, said " We would fight if attacked in these territories."

8th May.—The Chinese Forces launched determined counter-attacks to recapture the important town of Chuki.

VICHY

5th May.—Admiral Darlan left for Paris, accompanied by two diplomatic advisers.

Two French freighters laden with 14,000 tons of American flour, arrived in Marseilles.

The Paris Radio announced that France, Italy and Germany would co-operate in developing the automobile industry in France.

6th May.—American press messages reported a difference of opinion between Petain and Darlan on the extent of collaboration with Germany, who had demanded air and sea bases in Morocco.

7th May.—An agreement between Admiral Darlan and the German emissary was announced at Vichy, involving a modification of the boundary line between occupied and unoccupied France and a reduction in France's daily payment to Germany.

OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

2nd May.—The Germans announced the arrest of Patriarch Gavrilo, head of the Orthodox Church in Yugoslavia.

5th May.—The French Nazi leader, Jean Fontenoy, was reported to have been killed in a Paris street.

NEUTRAL COUNTRIES (RUSSIA, SPAIN, EIRE, ETC.)

2nd May.—Another American Red Cross ship, with wheat, milk and medicines, arrived in a Spanish port.

3rd May.—Sir Clive Liddell, the outgoing Governor of Gibraltar, in a farewell message, stressed the impregnability of the Rock.

5th May.—Spain took over the Sherifian customs at Tangier.

6th May.—The Ankara correspondent of *The Times* reported that Germany had made certain demands on the Soviet consequent on the latter's default in fulfilling the trade agreement. It was said that refusal of these demands might involve Russia in a war.

Reports reaching America showed that Portugal was taking precautions to forestall German plans for a parachute invasion of the Azores and Cape Verde Islands.

7th May.—M. Stalin succeeded M. Molotov as Chairman of the Council of the People's Commissars.

8th May.—It was reported that a Soviet military mission was negotiating for the use of 12 air bases in Iran should Turkey be involved in war.

WAR IN THE AIR

The following are the details of the British raids from home bases on enemy territory in Europe, ascertained by competent authorities, for the week ending 29th April 1941:—

Figures of aircraft losses include those incurred during British patrol activity (not specifically mentioned) over N.W. European waters.

Date.	Targets.	British losses.	Enemy losses.
April 23, Wednesday.	R.A.F. day bomber raids on Ibbenburen power station, near Osnabruck; wireless station and troops on Terschelling Island (Holland); shipping off Dutch coast (3 merchantmen believed sunk, others hit; 2 anti-aircraft ships hit). R.A.F. night bomber raid on battleships *Scharnhorst* and *Gneisenau* at **Brest**; invasion base at Le Havre.	1 day bomber.	.
April 24, Thursday.	R.A.F. day fighter attacks on aerodromes in N. France. R.A.F. day bomber raids on wireless station on Norwegian island; shipping off Norwegian coast (1 tanker believed sunk). R.A.F. night bomber raids on naval bases at **Kiel** (Germania, Deutsche Werke and other Shipbuilding yards, factories) and Wilhelmshaven; docks and other objectives on coasts of Norway, Holland, Belgium and France.	1 day fighter. 2 night bombers.	..
April 25, Friday.	R.A.F. day bomber raids on **Ymuiden** (iron and steel works, docks, warehouses, barges, troops, A. A. batteries); factories on Baltrum Island (Germany); railways and 2 wireless stations in Denmark; military camp on Dutch coast; shipping in Nieuwe Waterweg canal, between Rotterdam and Hook of Holland (1,600-ton merchantman sunk, others hit); convoy off Heligoland (2 merchantmen hit). R.A.F. night bomber raids on **Berlin** (including Friedrichstadt district); docks at Bremerhaven; targets at Lubeck; oil stores at Rotterdam.	2 bombers.	..
April 26, Saturday.	R.A.F. day fighter sweeps over Channel and N. France. R.A.F. day bomber raids on Norwegian aerodrome; shipping off Norwegian coast (1 merchantman sunk); convoy off Frisian Is. (1 merchantman damaged); anti-aircraft ships off Dutch coast. R.A.F. night bomber raids on docks at **Hamburg**, Emden, Bremerhaven, Cuxhaven; invasion bases at Ymuiden and Le Havre.	2 day fighters. 3 bombers.	2 aircraft (destroyed on ground).
April 27, Sunday.	R.A.F. day fighter attacks on gun positions and a supply train in Holland. R.A.F. day bomber raids on Cologne (factory, military camp); docks at Ymuiden; aerodrome at De Kooy (Holland); naval craft off coast of Britanny (1 patrol ship left sinking).	*Nil.*	—
April 28, Monday.	R.A.F. day fighter sweep over Dutch coast. R.A.F. day bomber raids on factory and railway yards at Moppel, near Zuyder Zee; docks at Den Helder; aerodrome at De Kooy; convoy off Dutch coast (2 destroyers hit) R.A.F. single-bomber day attack on Emden. R.A.F. night bomber raid on battleships *Scharnhorst* and *Gneisenau* at **Brest**.	5 day bombers.	1 day bomber.
April 29, Tuesday.	R.A.F. day bomber, and fighter raids on convoys off Norwegian coast (1 merchantman sinking, 1 damaged), off Belgian coast (1 merchantman set on fire, 1 damaged) and off Hannel Is. (1 merchantman damaged). R.A.F. night fighter attacks on 3 aerodromes in N. France. R.A.F. night bomber raids on **Mannheim** (river docks, factories); oil stores at Rotterdam.	1 day fighter. 2 day bombers. 1 night bomber.	1 night bomber.

(*Continued on Page* 7)

CONTENTS

	PAGE
Diary of the War	1
War in the Air	5
Talking Points	6
The Rock of Gibraltar	12
Great Britain and Iraq	14
The Britisher can take it	15
Misleading Statements in Enemy Broadcasts.	16

TALKING POINTS

THE WEEK

Two disquieting events have happened in the current week, one, the trouble in Iraq which is being satisfactorily tackled by the Royal Air Force and the Empire land forces, and the other, the successful evacuation of the Empire troops from Greece; but the latter event was marked by surprisingly few casualties, thanks to the British Navy.

An announcement of considerable importance has been made by General Smuts. He stated that, at the request of Great Britain, the South African troops now fighting in Abyssinia will proceed to North Africa to fight the Italians and Germans who are now on the Egyptian frontier. A good part of the South African Air Force is already in North Africa.

Many places of importance have been taken in Abyssinia by the Empire forces, while the remnants of the Italian army in the region of Amba Alagi are being hemmed in both from the south and from the north. An event of great political importance is the triumphal entry of Emperor Haile Selassie into Addis Ababa, five years after his forced departure from there. And the Emperor has declared his readiness to place his Abyssinian Patriot Forces at the disposal of Britain for service on any front.

The Royal Air Force has been very busy in attacking various targets in Germany and occupied Europe and German losses in material should indeed be very heavy.

Raids on Merseyside and Clydeside by the *Luftwaffe* have been particularly heavy on successive days and Liverpool and Belfast have suffered badly. A bright feature has been, however, that the toll of German bombers taken during nights is increasing considerably as a result of new measures taken to combat night-raiders.

M. Stalin has taken over the portfolio of Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars, that is Prime Minister, from M. Molotov, at the latter's request. In fact M. Stalin has been the virtual Dictator of Russia and the present move makes him so in name also. No change in foreign policy is anticipated.

Hitler has again spoken. He gave exaggerated accounts of the losses of the British forces in Greece, referred to Italy's robbing Yugoslavia of a good slice of her territory and, strangely enough, stated that the Reich had no territorial or other interests in the Balkans! There are two significant omissions in the speech. He did not refer to Germany's relations with America and further he omitted any prediction of an early peace because, evidently, he now thinks that the war is likely to be a long-drawn out affair. The rest of his speech contained the usual abusive references to Mr. Churchill and the Democracies.

Mr. Churchill's broadcast speech to the Polish people on the occasion of the Polish National Day was a masterly one. After referring to the great privations and sufferings of Poles in their own country and of his firm belief in the ultimate triumph of Poland, he referred to Hitler's atrocities and the scale of violence perpetrated by him. "This is a war," he stated, "against mechanized barbarians who, slave-hearted themselves, are fitted only to carry their curse to others. This war will be long and hard, but the end is sure. The end will reward all the toil, all disappointment, all suffering in those who faithfully serve the cause of European and world freedom. The day will dawn, perhaps, sooner than we now have a right to hope, when the insane attempt at Prussian domination, of racial hatred, of the armoured vehicle, the secret police, the alien overseas and the still more filthy Quislings, will pass like a monstrous drama, and in that morning of hope and freedom, not only the embattled, and at last well-armoured Democracies, but all that is noble and fearless in the New World as well as in the Old, will salute the rise of Poland to be a nation once again."

In the House of Commons, on Wednesday last, Mr. Churchill replied to the debate on the motion for a vote of confidence in the Government which was adopted by a huge majority—447 votes to 3. Mr. Lloyd George spoke in a defeatest tone, which naturally roused the Prime Minister's spirit. In the course of a frank, dignified and powerful speech, Mr. Churchill declared: "When your enemy has five or six times the regular army that you have, when he is more adequately equipped and is much stronger in the air and in tanks and when he lies in the centre of the war scene and can strike out in one or two or three directions simultaneously out of

a choice of seven or eight, it is evident that your problem becomes rather difficult. It is not possible to avoid repeated rebuffs and misfortunes and these we shall very likely have to go through for quite a long time." And he added: "I have never promised anything but blood, tears, toil and sweat to which I will add our full share of mistakes, short comings and disappointments, and also that this may go on for a very long time at the end of which I firmly believe that there will be a complete and final victory." About that consummation he felt no doubt whatever. "When I look back," he concluded, "on the peril which we have overcome and remember all that has gone wrong and all that has gone right, I feel sure we have no need to fear the tempest. Let it roar, let it rage. We shall come through."

THE WAR IN AFRICA

Except in Abyssinia where the British Imperial Forces are sweeping everything before them, the war in Africa has reached a more or less stationary phase. The garisson at Tobruk has beaten off heavy tank attacks, inflicting considerable losses on the enemy. The Germans have, thus, been denied the use of the coastal road (from Bardia to Sollum). And in the Sollum sector, not only has the Axis advance been halted, but British patrols have frequently come forward and taken heavy toll of the enemy's advanced units. The Royal Air Force has kept up terrific raids on the harbour at Benghazi, the aerodrome at Benina and enemy transport and troop concentrations elsewhere in Libya.

Exactly five years after the Italian occupation of Addis Ababa, Emperor Haile Selassie returned in triumph to his capital city and was welcomed by Lieut.-Gen. A. G. Cunningham, General Officer Commanding the British Forces in East Africa, who was chiefly responsible for freeing his country from the Italian yoke. The Empire troops have captured Waldia and the main fighting is now proceeding along the Addis Ababa-Asmara Road near the mountain fortress of Amba Alagi. The forces coming up from the south have captured Quoram, about 90 miles north of Dessie, while those from the north have come down as far as Derbub, so that the two Imperial forces are now separated only by some 30 miles with the Italians wedged in between them. The country is very difficult and ropes have to be used to transport men and equipment over the mountains, but it is only a question of days before the last Italian soldier on Abyssinian soil is disarmed.

Emperor Haile Selassie, in an interview, stated that he had offered the British Government the use of the Abyssinian forces on any front where they might be required. He also stated that he was determined to re-establish democratic Government in Abyssinia and that his internal programme included intensive educational, agricultural and social development. The Emperor hoped that the British Government would grant a loan to carry out his plans. The loan would be repaid from mineral resources, including gold.

WAR IN THE AIR—*(Continued from Page 5)*

The following are the figures of losses of aircraft due to enemy air raids on Britain, ascertained by competent authorities, for the week ending 29th April 1941 :—

Figures of aircraft losses include those incurred during enemy attack (not specifically mentioned) on shipping in North-West European Waters.

Date.	British losses.	Enemy losses.
April 23	Nil.	3 night bombers.
April 24	Nil.	1 day fighter. 1 day bomber.
April 25	Nil.	1 day bomber.
April 26	Nil.	1 day fighter.
April 27	Nil.	2 night bombers.
April 28	Nil.	2 day bombers. 4 night bombers.
April 29	Nil.	6 night bombers.

India is particularly happy that her soldiers are winning undying fame in the North and East African campaigns. Eye-witnesses speak of the dash and discipline displayed by an Indian brigade in an action at El Mechili, 100 miles west of Tobruk when the enemy began his drive on Benghazi. The Indians, by their barvery, evoked memories of the historic charge of the Light Brigade in the Crimean War. And now a Press Note issued in Simla, bears official testimony to the grand work of the Indian soldiers in Abyssinia. Indian troops, says the Press Note, have now advanced some 250 miles south of Asmara into the heart of the mountainous fastnesses of Northern Abyssinia. The advance continues along winding tracks up the sides of peaks, some of which rise to over 10,000 feet and through deep gorges, where the enemy uses every advantage given to him by the terrain in a series of desperate delaying actions. The mountain of Amba Alagi, the present objective of the Imperial forces, towers to 11,000 feet and, over part of the approach, there is only one road. A bridge-head on this road was rapidly secured by a squadron of Indian mechanized cavalry. A laconic description of this action by one of those who took part in it says: "In a raid at dawn, we moved forward and reached the bridge-head without much opposition. The enemy opened machine-gun fire which we silenced with counter-fire. A troop then went forward, secured a feature overlooking the area, and was quickly reinforced. Enemy colonial troops, though a few in number, tried to counter-attack, but we broke this up with machine-gun fire. The active clearing of road blocks and other obstacles by Indian sappers and miners continued and these devoted men are constantly risking their lives to maintain the speed of our advance. Meanwhile, the Indian units in Asmara are fraternizing with the local population, buying souvenirs and visiting cafes and cinemas. After weeks spent in the field and many hard-fought actions, they are finding Asmara a centre of life and a welcome change to the heat in which they had to live and fight in the Sudan and Western Desert. All these troops are in good heart and health.

India, who showed her sympathy with Ethiopia in such unmistakable fashion when she was overrun by the Italian hordes five years ago, is doubly pleased that her gallant sons have played no mean part in restoring that country back to the rightful Emperor.

And the virtually complete occupation of Abyssinia by the Allied troops has made it possible for the South African Government to release all their troops fighting there for action in Egypt and Libya. The tempo of the Battle of Egypt is bound to increase but we are fortified by the knowledge that the British Army of the Nile is being rapidly reinforced by the troops from the Abyssinian theatre as well as by those 45,000 so gallantly evacuated from the coasts of Greece under the very noses of the German dive-bombers. General Wavell has half a million men under his command. And the 26 American ships, fully laden with arms and ammunition, that have arrived in the Suez are but an earnest of the immense help that will reach the British forces in the Middle East now that President Roosevelt has permitted United States vessels to sail straight to the Red Sea ports. Well might Mr. Churchill say that he would not like to be in the place of the Commander of the German troops now facing General Wavell's men!

Mr. Churchill does not minimise the importance of this battle. In his characteristic speech on Wednesday last in the House of Commons, he pointed out that the loss of the Nile Valley and the Suez Canal, of the position in the Mediterranean and of Malta would be among the heaviest blows the British could sustain. He announced Great Britain's determination to fight for them with all the resources of the Commonwealth and expressed the firm hope that she would be successful. And he added: "We intend to fight with all our strength for the Nile Valley and command of the Mediterranean. Our troops and resources will give a good account of themselves. Therefore, let there be no feather-headed or defeatist talk about cutting our losses in the Middle East."

GREECE

A good deal of the attention of the public all over the world has been directed to the events in Greece and very properly. It is only too true that wars cannot be won by evacuations. In the face of superior enemy forces the Empire Forces have been compelled to withdraw from Greece and this evacuation was completed on Friday, the 2nd May. For the loss of only two destroyers, about 45,000 of Empire troops have been safely taken away from Greece.

It would have been deplorable cowardice on the part of Great Britain if she had not moved her troops into Greece when the Greek Government decided upon resisting the German aggression. Any such course was unthinkable, for not only would it have brought undying shame, but Britain would have lost the confidence of the enslaved people of Europe who look to her for their ultimate liberation. In his speech in the House of Commons on Wednesday, Mr. Churchill, referring to Hitler's opinion that, in the circumstances which faced Great Britain in Greece, she should not have gone to the aid of the Greeks, said: "I do not want to enter into arguments with experts, but this is a kind of crime of which he is a good judge." "If we had to tread," he further said, "that stony path even with the knowledge we possess to-day, I for one would do the same thing again." It is better to have fought with the gallant Greeks and lost than never to have fought at all. More troops could not be sent to Greece because it was necessary that Egypt

and Suez Canal should be defended. For the loss of a small part of the Empire army Great Britain has now kept her word of promise to Greece, her position elsewhere has not been prejudicially affected, the attack on Egypt has been brought to a stand-still and the British control of the Eastern Mediterranean and the Suez remains. The world has witnessed how a small nation like Greece can stand up against a mighty army with the most modern implements of war. Now let us look at the other side. It was Hitler's intention to march to the Aegean without firing a shot, but what are the facts? He has had to fight to secure this objective. Casualties in the German army have been heavy and there has been considerable wastage of war material. Valuable supplies and oil have been used up. Communications have been badly disorganized. While there is guerilla warfare in Yugoslavia, both that country and Greece are now full of embittered populations who will never reconcile themselves to Nazi control. Hundreds of planes have been brought down.

Abyssinia and East Africa are now lost to Italy. Germany is forced to maintain her forces in North Africa all along the long coast in the face of the British sea supremacy. Germany has, of course, air bases on the Aegean sea, but she can make a further move only either by invading Turkey or by invading Egypt or both; and both moves would be resisted.

British operations in Greece have, of course, ended in a failure, but Great Britain's position, as has already been stated, is no worse except in Libya than it would have been, had she not rushed to the support of Greece. Great Britain and Greece are firmly established in the harbours and aerodromes of Crete. The vital area of the Atlantic is unaffected for Britain by the developments in the Mediterranean.

TURKEY

In these anxious times the position of Turkey has become very difficult and delicate. Her policy is, of course, one of friendliness to Great Britain, but she does not want to involve herself in difficulties with any other country so long as her sovereignty is not affected. The trade pact with Germany is an illustration of this point. Authoritative statements have been made that Turkey will not only honour her pledges to Great Britain but will resist with all the strength that she possesses any overtures on the part of any totalitarian country to distract her friendship with Great Britain. A prominent Turkish deputy, writing recently in a Turkish newspaper, stated that " If Turks are compelled to fight for their national honour, the Turks will stand at Britain's side, not because Britain asks it, but because British and Turkish ideals and interests are identical." He further added that " it is impossible for Turkey to detach herself from her friendship with Britain and pass into the other camp. Such an action would mean that Turkey was disowning herself." Mr. Anthony Eden, Foreign Secretary, in his speech in the House of Commons on Tuesday last, referred to the Turkish statesmen whom he had occasion to meet in his tour of the Middle East. He said that he was deeply impressed by the loyal friendship shown by all of them and by the determination of the Turks to stand firm against any menace to their sovereignty or any encroachments on their rights and interests. " Since the beginning of the war," he continued, " Turkey has rendered great service to our cause by her policy of independence. The importance of her role as a bulwark against further aggression in the Middle East is obvious. I am sure that loyalty to their alliance with this country will as ever be the basis of the Turkish Government's policy." In the light of this tribute the report emanating from a Spanish source that a pro-Nazi Government is likely to be installed in Turkey should be discounted. Answering a complaint made by Mr. Llyod George during Wednesday's debate in the Commons that German vessels had been reported to have been allowed to pass through the Dardanelles, Mr. Churchill said that Turkey had no right to stop them. And he pointed out that Turkey was a country " whose relations are so highly valued by us and whose part to play in this great world's conflict is of the greatest importance." There is no doubt that Turkey will resist any German attempt to send troops through her territory and she is further fortunate, as has been stated, in having no national minorities. His Majesty's Government are in closest touch with the Turks both militarily and politically and Great Britain fully recognises and appreciates Turkey's special interests and needs in relation to Balkan strategy. Turkey is performing a valuable service to the Allied cause by barring the land route to the Middle East and her defence preparations in this respect are quite satisfactory.

Will Hitler invade Turkey? Of course, Hitler, if it serves his interests, will not scruple to do so, but he realizes that to force a passage across Turkey he would need a very large force and now that the British are in Iraq, he may well hesitate to rub Turkey on the wrong side.

THE GENERAL POSITION

What then are Hitler's possible moves? Invasion of England, sending of strong forces to Libya to start an offensive against Egypt, attack on Turkey in order to secure Mosul oil-wells and menace Egypt from the north, air landings in Syria, the closure of the Western Mediterranean, an assault on Gibraltar *via* Spain, penetration of North-West Africa *via* Spanish Morocco, occupation of the Azores and the Cape Verde islands as advance bases for the Battle of the Atlantic. So far as Spain is concerned, the position is very obscure—all or any of these may be in the offing. The Falangists are fanatically pro-Axis. The Spanish Government is subjected to extreme pressure by Germany and the pressure has increased after the signing of the Loan Agreement with Britain of £2,500,000 to be spent in the sterling area. Offers of substantial economic assistance might tip the

balance in favour of Germany, but it should also be remembered that Spain is in a very desperate plight as regards food and her final decision will perhaps be taken on the outcome of the struggle now going on in the Libyan-Egyptian frontier.

Much weight should not be attached to the statement of Senor Suner that Spain is not on the eve of joining the Tripartite Pact. It should be remembered that there are more than 2,500 Germans in Madrid in various guises, that they have an organized secret police, that they have considerable influence in aerodromes, particularly in the south, that dumps of food and petrol have been placed at strategic points, but, though General Franco remains in the background, there does not appear to have been any split in the Government. The position is, therefore, one which is complicated and full of perplexities, but the Gibraltar Rock is, from all accounts, impenetrable.

So far as Vichy is concerned, the position is still obscure, but there is reason to believe that, though Admiral Darlan has now more or less definitely gone to the German side, Marshal Petain's influence is still considerable and he is unwilling to go to the length which Laval and Darlan desire the Vichy Government to go. But Hitler is unceasing in his efforts to coerce France to give him what he desires—facilities in the Atlantic and in the Mediterranean.

AMERICA AND THE WAR.

It is well to remember, in dealing with expressions of American opinion, that that opinion is accustomed to express itself in forthright terms leading to some misunderstanding in other countries. The Isolationists are losing ground. Senators Nye and Wheeler are renewing the campaign of doubt and scepticism of Britain's powers to survive and Colonel Lindberg is doing his best privately to assist these people. On the other side are those who would desire America to declare war on Germany. The *Baltimore Sun*, a few days ago, wrote that "the hour of decision had come" and called upon the United States in order to safeguard her safety and security not to leave England alone, for if Great Britain was defeated, America would be in danger. "Half measures," the paper said, "would not do and bold action has become desperately necessary." It may be remembered in this connexion that General Smuts has very recently stated that it will not take long for America to become a belligerent. President Quezon of the Philippines, declared at a special sitting of the National Assembly, the other day, that "the trend of events seems to point strongly to the possibility of American entry into the present war." Miss Dorothy Thompson, the well-known American commentator, has just said that President Roosevelt is on the eve of taking the greatest decision that any man has ever been called upon to take. But, whatever the future may have in store, so far as this aspect of American policy is concerned, there can be no doubt whatever that there is an insistent call on the part of the leaders and the Administration to rush American help to Great Britain. The Mexican Foreign Minister has called upon the people in that country to prepare to fight totalitarianism. A Democratic Senator, Mr. Pepper, asked Americans to get tough and has requested the President to declare a state of national emergency and also to close exits from Europe, Africa and Asia against any possible attack on the American continent by jointly occupying with Britain, Greenland, Iceland, the Azores, Cape Verde islands, Canary islands, Dakar and Singapore. Mr. Wendell Wilkie regrets that sea-patrol is inadequate and states that there should be a rapid delivery of goods to Britain by convoy, aeroplane accompaniment or any other method deemed best. Further, an influential manifesto has been issued, signed by prominent military and naval authorities. In that statement it is stated that Germany's industrial plants are within easy reach by the R.A.F. while Britain's supplies are from the Dominions and America, which are immune from air attack, that while German production has now reached its maximum, military production of the United States is only just beginning, that the U.S. Navy should be able to turn the balance of the struggle in regard to safety of the convoy routes. So far as actual help is concerned, it is known that American destroyers, submarine chasers, mine sweepers and other naval craft are gathered in great numbers along the Atlantic coast for effective patrol and 200 vessels are being engaged on that task. Production of machine-tools will be expedited and President Roosevelt called all the chief heads of his administration to consider the need for producing heavy bombers rapidly. What can be more heartening than Mr. Roosevelt's appeal that Democracies must and can achieve command of the air and that America should see to it that the process is hastened so that Democratic superiority in air can be made absolute? Already 26 American vessels have arrived in Egypt laden with war material and ammunition for the Allies and Mr. Menzies, Australian Prime Minister, will use his personal influence in America to whip up production. The Chairman of the House of Naval Affairs Committee stated the other day, "The people are not going to be tapped for goods to be sent to England, only to see them sent to the bottom of sea." No wonder American agitation for "convoy" is gaining strength. It is significant that, arising out of the debate on the Bill authorizing the President to take over idle foreign ships in United States ports, a motion to prohibit the transfer from one belligerent to another of any ships taken over by United States for its own defence purposes was defeated by the House of Representatives. If this motion had been passed, the transfer of these vessels to Britain would have become impossible. Another measure of importance which is being

taken is to plug leakage of supplies from South America through United States to Axis Powers.

MR. STIMSON'S GREAT SPEECH

The following are a few points from the broadcast speech made on Wednesday last to the American nation, and it is obvious that, coming from the Secretary of State for War, it should have far-reaching repercussions on American opinion :—

"The world is facing so great a crisis that all our efforts must be turned toward the defence of our nation's safety."

"Both within and without Germany they (Hitler and his gang) have set back the clock of time more than five centuries."

"The growth of freedom has been so long and so steady that we had come to believe that it will soon be the recognized system of the whole world. All at once it has been dashed aside and trampled upon by these Nazi rulers who are proposing to establish a world order in which they shall be masters, the people of all other nations their slaves. They have left no such thing as individual rights of liberty within their territory or international rights of independence outside their territory. Both domestic and international law have gone down under their blows. For the rule of Law they have substituted the rule of the Gestapo Secret Police under whose malign terrorism no vestige of personal freedom is safe."

"Nazi advanced agents are already busy among the Republics to the south of us, building strategic air lines through vital portions of that continent and creeping up towards our Panama Canal. Its armed forces are threatening West Africa, looking towards a jumping-off place within easy reach of the Brazilian coast. Its propagandists are already vigorously active in our population."

"This so-called New Order of Hitler is not new; and it has not and never will create an order in this world. Hitler's regime of brutal lawlessness is merely one of those temporary reactions which have occurred at intervals during man's long history of progress upward. Since his origin millions of years ago, ambitious men have many times attempted world-wide conquest over the liberties of their fellowmen. But they have never permanently succeeded and they never will."

"Hitler has not only torn up the rules of international law, but he is expanding his lawless activities into our hemisphere. Germany's recent unrestricted submarine warfare in the Atlantic Ocean is not legal blockade but virtual piracy and it is time that America put a stop to this lawless aggression on the ocean."

"The British Isles, which have been a fortress against any despotic approach to our shores through the northern reaches of the Atlantic, are threatened both by attacks from the air and blockade from the sea. If their Government should fall either from starvation or from attack, the British Fleet, if it survived at all, would have no adequate base for its continued operations. If, the British Isles should fall, all the great ship-yards of Britain would pass into the hands of the aggressor-nations; and their maritime ship-building capacity, thus augmented, would become six or seven times as large as our own. Under such conditions, our own fleet would be quite unable to protect the Western Hemisphere from the overwhelming sea power which would then confront it."

"Ten months ago we began to build up those air and ground defences, and the progress which has thus far been made has been satisfactory; and a trained Air Force and Army in a country of this size cannot be created in less than a minimum of two years, fit to meet the air forces and army which Germany has been spending six years in producing. Time is an essential factor, and time cannot be had if sea power is lost. To-day the wide-flung forces of the British Navy are threatened in the North Atlantic, the Mediterranean and Malaya. Those thinly spread forces today alone are securing to us that precious time."

"The life-line of Great Britain is threatened. The high-water mark of the Nazi effort is at hand in the shape of attacks on shipping."

"If today the American Navy should make secure the seas for the delivery of our munitions to Great Britain, it will render as great a service to its own country and to the preservation of American freedom as it has rendered in all its glorious history."

"And while we hold in our hands the instrument ready and able to make all these steps effective, shall we now flinch and permit these munitions to be sunk in the Atlantic Ocean?"

"Development of modern air power makes it necessary for us to command not only the reaches of the oceans adjacent to our own shores, but the entire reach of the oceans surrounding the Western continent; for, if hostile nations possessing powerful armies and air power can once make a landing on the shores of our weaker neighbour nations, either north or south of us, our immunity is gone."

"If our Navy's assistance should be withheld until the power of the British Fleet and nation is broken, its own power of execution would at once shrink to but an impotent fraction of what it could do at the present moment. If we should allow the present strategic moment to pass until the power of the British Navy has gone, our Navy would become merely a secondary power instead of the decisive winning power in the world contest."

"Unless we, on our side, are ready to sacrifice and, if need be, die for the conviction that America must be saved, it will not be saved."

THE ROCK OF GIBRALTAR

WHERE HITLER'S HORDES WILL BEAT IN VAIN

Gibraltar is once again in the news. The "cornered maniac," as Mr. Churchill aptly describes Hitler, is seeking fresh fields for mischief before his inevitable doom overtakes him. The steady development of the resources of the United States and the growth of Britain's armed might will bring his ambitions crashing down to the earth. Before that happens, he wants to see if he cannot do something to break British sea power. Hence his drive towards Egypt and the Suez, which has been halted at Sollum by the British Army of the Nile. Hence, too, his attempts to make Spain agree to allow passage of his troops to Gibraltar. His deputy, Rudolph Hess, is reported to have arrived in Spain and to be working on the feelings of Senor Serrano Suner, the Spanish Foreign Minister, and other extreme nationalist leaders with dreams of their own of reviving the glories of the old Spanish Empire, to join Germany in an attack on British interests in Africa and the Mediterranean. It remains to be seen if Hitler's attempts in this direction will succeed, if, that is to say, Spain's leader, General Franco, will lightly exchange the invaluable supplies of food and medicine which Britain and America have been sending to his starving and suffering country for the hazards of war and the increased misery it will cause to his people. True, Spanish students not long ago demonstrated for the return of Gibraltar to Spain but Franco has hitherto kept his extremists in check.

In any event, the British authorities are taking all precautions at Gibraltar. That able and experienced military leader, Viscount Gort, has been appointed Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Gibraltar; the evacuation of civilians whose presence is not vitally necessary has begun; and the Rock itself is reported to be ready for any seige as was strikingly demonstarted in last week's manœuvres when a mock air attack was staged (and beaten off). A despatch from Algeciras states that troopships, escorted by destroyers, recently landed reinforcements at Gibraltar. And long-range firing-practice is being carried out on Gibraltar's northern front. The outgoing Governor, Sir Clive Liddell, in a broadcast speech from his tunnelled headquarters in the heart of the Rock, stressed its impregnability: "Let Hitler send his marauders and bandits to find out." Earlier, in his speech, he referred to Germany's attempts to entangle Spain in her adventures. "Hitler has tried repeatedly to drag Spain into the war," said Sir Clive, "with a view to attacking Gibraltar and closing the Straits. We know that ninety per cent of the Spaniards do not want war. But Hitler, according to his well-known methods, has managed to find a certain number of Quislings in that country; and that is the reason for the intensive work of preparation at Gibraltar to ensure that if the gangster's bands attack the Rock from air, land and sea, we shall destroy them. This is the first time that the Fortress Commander has occupied the fighting headquarters since the great siege of 1783."

Gibraltar was known to the Greek and Roman geographers as Calpe or Alybe, the two names being probably corruptions of a Phoenician word. The eminence of the African coast opposite—near Ceuta—which bears the modern English name of Apes' Hill was then designated Abyla; and Calpe and Abyla, according to an ancient and widely current interpretation, formed the renowned Pillars of Hercules, which (says *Encyclopædia Britannica*) for centuries were the limits of enterprise to the seafaring peoples of the Mediterranean world. Gibraltar is called after Tariq ben Zaid, its name being a corruption of Jebel Tariq (Mount Tariq). That chieftain invaded Andalusia (in Spain) in 711 A.D. with an army of Arabs and Berbers and destroyed the Gothic power in a three-day battle. In order to secure his communications with Africa, he ordered the building of a strong castle upon the Rock, known to the Romans as Mons Calpe. This work, begun in the year of the great battle, was completed only in 742. In 1309 it was taken by Spain, and in 1333 retaken by the Moors, from whom it passed in 1411 to the Moorish ruler of Granada. In 1462, it became Spanish once more, passing in 1469 into the family of the Duke of Medina Sidonia. In 1502, Gibraltar was formally incorporated with the domains of the Spanish Crown and the Spanish made great efforts to strengthen its defences.

WHEN BRITAIN FIRST TOOK THE ROCK

In the war of the Spanish Succession, Gibraltar was taken by the allied British and Dutch forces after a three-day siege, on 24th July 1704. Sir George Rooke, the British Admiral, caused the British flag to be hoisted on the Rock and took possession in the name of Queen Anne, whose Government ratified the occupation. The troops of Spain and France, under the Marquis of Villadarias, laid siege to Gibraltar in October of that year but they did not succeed in taking it. For twenty years there were endless negotiations for the peaceful transfer of the colony back to Spain, varied by an abortive attempt at its capture. It was again besieged (unsuccessfully) by the Spaniards in 1726.

Spain, however, did not try to take the Rock either in the War of the Austrian Succession or in that of 1762. But during the War of American Independence, she began a memorable siege in 1779 which she kept up till 1783.

The English Governor of Gibraltar, General Sir George Eliot (afterwards Lord Heathfield), whose military skill and moral courage places him among the best soldiers and noblest men of history, earned undying fame for his gallant and successful defence. Spain tried every device—open battle in the sea, battering ships to ram down the defences, incitement of mutiny—but all in vain. Admiral Sir George Rodney won a memorable naval victory for Britain in 1780 and entered the harbour right under the very noses of the besiegers, with provisions and supplies for the garrison. And the sortie made in November (26-27), 1781 was brilliantly successful, the Spanish siege works being mostly destroyed. The British engineers also perfected new devices—improved gun-carriages; the use of red-hot shot which annihilated the entire fleet of Spanish battering ships in the grand attack launched by the besiegers in July 1782; the construction of the still existing rock galleries which gave admirable cover to the besieged. Lord Howe, who won a great victory at sea over the Spaniards, relieved the fortress for a third time, following in the footsteps of Admirals Rodney and Darby. The long siege at last came to an end on 6th February 1783; and the Spanish Commander, Duc de Crillon visited the fortress and many courtesies passed between him and Lord Heathfield.

"AS SAFE AS GIBRALTAR"

The history of Gibraltar has been comparatively uneventful since 1783. Rumours of an imminent Spanish and French attack in 1801 did not materialize—thanks to the defeat inflicted on the Spanish Navy off Algeciras in June of that year by Admiral Saumarez. Gibraltar was of great importance as a coaling station during the Great War and now it has sprung into prominence again as one of the bulwarks of British sea-power, commanding the western entrance to the Mediterranean Sea and guarding the vital sea-route to the Cape and India. An assault on Gibraltar will be attended with immense risks to the invaders. The Rock is well-nigh inaccessible from the sea on the south; the rugged and precipitous slope on the western side is also very difficult to negotiate; and the most powerful naval batteries in the world protect the Rock. Caverns and galleries, over two miles long, have been cut into it, with port-holes at intervals of twelve yards through which powerful guns face the invader. Large underground storage tanks—with specially prepared collecting areas high up the Rock—ensure a plentiful supply of rainwater. Above all, the British fleet in Western Mediterranean keeps unceasing vigil over the place. No wonder the very name Gibraltar has come to mean safety. "Safe as Gibraltar" is almost as common an expression as "Safe as the Bank of England."

Morley Richards, the *Daily Express* Military Correspondent writes: "If Hitler decides to throw his assault troops against Gibraltar, its defenders need be in little danger from bombs and shells. Britain has held Gibraltar for 236 years. Could the Germans beat down the defences of two centuries? It is as well not to be over-confident about it. Hitler's shock troops have proved themselves capable of remarkable feats at arms. The Rock has food, water and munitions safely stored below the ground for its big garrison to hold out for two years. The question is whether the defences could be rushed by parachute troops armed with demolition charges, tommy guns, flame-throwers and other short-range weapons. A year ago Hitler might have been able to rush the Rock across a narrow strip of no man's land which joins it up with Spain. A Spanish military authority said at the time that he thought it a perfectly feasible plan. Now Gibraltar's defences cover every aspect. It is just possible that the Germans could destroy the naval dockyard and the repair and supply bases. But their chances of capturing the Fortress itself appear small." Hitler has, indeed, little chance of taking it by direct assault; he may try to neutralize its effectiveness as a naval base by air action from Ceuta or any place on the Spanish mainland. But, as was pointed out a week or two ago in the article on Spain, he will lay himself open to exhausting and costly operations among an unfriendly people and probably meet his Waterloo in the Iberian Peninsula.

GREAT BRITAIN AND IRAQ

THE TRUE POSITION

The trouble which Great Britain is facing in Iraq is particularly unfortunate because England was mainly responsible for the independence which that country enjoys today. Iraq is important because of its oil fields and pipe-lines to the Mediterranean, its production of oil three years ago having been as much as a little over 4 million tons. Its army is about 30,000 strong besides its police force. The present king is Feisal II, who is six years old. He succeeded his father, Ghazi who died in 1939. The uncle of King Feisal II, Emir Abdul Ilah was the Regent till a month ago when the Nationalist leader Sayid Rashid el Gailani, with a few friends in the Army forcibly assumed the powers of the Regent, Ilah having flown to Transjordania.

THE TREATY

Under a treaty which was ratified early in 1931, Iraq is bound to provide sites for air bases to Great Britain at or in the vicinity of Basra and for an air base west of the Euphrates. For this purpose, Great Britain, it was stated, according to the treaty, could maintain forces upon Iraq territory to maintain these bases, the only stipulation being that the presence of these forces should not constitute occupation of Iraq or prejudice the sovereign rights of the country. Iraq is also to provide facilities for the movement of British forces, of all arms, in transit across Iraq and for the transport and storage of all supplies and equipment that may be required by these forces during the passage across Iraq. These facilities cover the use of roads, railways, waterways, ports and aerodromes in that country. It will be seen that there is no condition attached to the movement of troops.

CAUSE OF THE TROUBLE

The present Regent and usurper publicly declared his intention to honour the Anglo-Iraq Treaty and permitted the landing of troops at Basra some time ago, but when some days later a further contingent was to arrive, he declared that he was unwilling to grant permission for further British troops to arrive in Iraq before those who were already there had passed through. Rashid el Gailani, it now appears, was acting under Nazi instructions and had appealed for German help to resist the British. When Great Britain refused to comply with his directions as regards the movement of troops he centred his troops around the aerodrome at Habbaniyah with the result that there was a clash and later developments followed. The present position is that half of the Iraqi Air Force has been put out of action, that important military places in Basra have been occupied by the British forces and that Baghdad and other places are receiving the attention of the Royal Air Force. The position of the oil fields, is, of course, dangerous and suggestions are being made in the British Press that care should be taken to see that these do not fall in the hands of Germans.

GREAT BRITAIN'S OBJECT

The position of Great Britain in relation to Iraq has been made absolutely clear. Nazi propaganda agencies are busy describing Britain's move as an attack on Muslim countries and pointing out that they are in danger from Great Britain. The indisputable fact, however, is that nobody deplores more than Great Britain the situation that has arisen in Iraq owing to the action of a few betrayers of Iraq's interests. Great Britain's desire is to see, as has been stated, that Iraq enjoys peace and is ruled by her own Government in accordance with her own constitution. She has no designs on Iraq; she is not attacking any Muslim power but she desires to secure the fulfilment of her treaty rights and protect her communications with her Muslim Allies, that is, Egypt and Turkey.

OFFER OF TURKISH MEDIATION

Mr. Eden, speaking in the House of Commons on Tuesday last, stated that Great Britain had a record of which it had nothing to be ashamed of in dealing with the Arab people and above all with Iraq. "It was we," he pointed out, "who assured independence to modern Iraq. It was we who have assisted them and in every respect kept our word." Great Britain built the Railways, roads, etc., and trained the Iraqi Army. In the meanwhile both Turkey and Egypt have offered their good offices to mediate between Great Britain and Iraq. Great Britain has stated definitely while thanking these countries for their offer, that Iraq should withdraw her troops from Habbaniyah and cease hostilities against the British forces before Great Britain can discuss the fulfilment of her treaty rights which they are, in all circumstances, determined to maintain. Though Egypt and Turkey offered to intervene it is absolutely clear that neither of these countries is in sympathy with the men who are responsible for this mis-adventure. The Egyptian Prime Minister ardently wishes that the causes of the trouble should be eliminated, while the Turkish Press deplores the incident.

Mr. CHURCHILL'S REFERENCE TO IRAQ

In the course of his utterance in the Commons on Wednesday, Mr. Churchill said that

(*Continued on Page* 15)

THE BRITISHER CAN TAKE IT

HOW THE PEOPLE BEAT HITLER

Said a London woman (Margery Wace), boadcasting last September "We in Great Britain have been more fortunate than any of the other countries which have been attacked by Hitler, for the simple reason that we now see clearly what he is trying to do. He is trying to break down the morale of the civilian population and that is exactly what we are not going to let him do."

Here is the story of Hitler's defeat told in German terror-propaganda and British reactions.

GERMANY

August 6, 1940:

"Women will look in vain for their children, wives will see the charred bodies of their husbands, mothers will weep over the homesteads lost, and people will cry for food." (*German broadcast.*)

August 23, 1940:

"The noise produced by the propellers of the German dive-bombers is so hideous that it upsets the mental and moral equilibrium of Britons." (*German broadcast in Hindustani.*)

September 13, 1940:

"Thousands of people are streaming from the city, the horror of the past few days revealed in their faces......A flight of this kind is always the beginning of the end." (*German broadcast.*)

Jan. 20, 1941:

"One reconnaissance map shows in red ink the latest effects of German raids day by day. It looks like a huge pool of blood, and we turn away in horror, so clearly can one see the districts, the streets, and even individual buildings which have been destroyed." (*Deutschlandsender.*)

Jan. 26, 1941:

"Britain is very soon to suffer the most terrible onslaught in her history." (*'Lord Haw-Haw.'*)

Feb. 5, 1941:

"Britain is being prepared by Mr. Churchill not for war but for something indescribably horrible, a condition in which raw recruits pit their strength against the most perfectly trained and equipped forces in the world. There is no word in the dictionary for such a horror." (*'Lord Haw-Haw.'*)

BRITAIN

August 1940:

"When I first came to London two months ago, an English victory was for me a matter of conviction. To-day it is a matter of certainty—to-day, that is the day after the fifth night of extremely violent bombardment........It is precisely as a result of seeing the reactions of English opinion to these barbarous threats that I have arrived at this state of certainty." (*M. de Wauters*, Belgian newspaper director.)

August 23, 1940:

"As eye-witness I confirm that German attempts to undermine the morale and nerves of the British people were futile." (*Swiss* paper *Basler Nachrichten.*)

September 13, 1940:

"His bombings of London have not lessened our confidence in the slightest degree. We take them as the measure of his fury, and of his urgent need for success." (*Mr. Wickham Steed.*)

Sept. 16, 1940:

"I can assure you from personal knowledge that the recent raids have stiffened British morale." (*U.S. commentator Warran Irving.*)

Sept. 20, 1940:

"There is no risk of London giving way in the slightest manner under German attacks." (Swedish paper *Dayens Nyheter.*)

April 17, 1940:

"I think I know what 'London can take it' really means." (*U. S. Ambassador, Mr. Winant.*)

April 27, 1941:

"It is just in those very places where the malice of the savage enemy has done its worst and where the ordeal of the men, women and children has been most severe that I found their morale most high and splendid." (*Mr. Churchill.*)

GREAT BRITAIN AND IRAQ

(*Continued from Page 14*)

the Government had known of the situation in Iraq for some months, but no troops could be spared for being sent there. The garrison at Habbaniyah, he announced, had routed the besiegers and driven them out. Twenty-six officers and 408 men had been taken prisoners and the enemy had sustained 1,000 casualties. He also said that Germans might arrive in Iraq before the Empire forces had crushed the revolt, in which case the British task would become very difficult. "We intend to assist the Iraqis," the Prime Minister added, "to get rid of Rashid Ali and the military dictatorship at the earliest possible moment." Fort Rutbah on the pipe line from the Mosul oil fields to Haifa has fallen to the British.

MISLEADING STATEMENTS IN ENEMY BROADCASTS

BROADCASTS IN ENGLISH

Dr. Goebbels and the Brick Wall

Hopefully, persistently and quite vainly, Dr. Goebbels has tried throughout the week to make the world see a crack in the British Empire's solidarity. This particular rift, he would have us believe, exists between Australia and New Zealand on the one hand, and Great Britain on the other; and, to support his little theory, he has invented

(*a*) dissensions between British and Anzac troops actually in the Balkans,

(*b*) differences of opinion between the British and Anzac authorities at Headquarters in Cairo, and

(*c*) alarm and dissatisfaction among the Australian and New Zealand peoples themselves.

Nazi stories of quarrels between British and Anzac troops in Greece are put in their right perspective by the orderly, stubborn and highly successful rear-guard actions which the Empire forces there have been carrying out. Troops engaged in stemming, inch by inch, the advance of an overwhelmingly more numerous enemy have no time for quarrelling among themselves, even if they wanted to—and German war correspondents themselves are the best witnesses to the stubborn resistance put up by the Empire forces in Greece.

Strange Evidence of " Differences "

Obedient to its master's voice, the Rome radio chimed in on April 23 with an allegation that " serious differences of opinion had broken out between the commander of the British troops in the Middle East and the commander of the Australian troops in the same area.

Unfortunately for Rome, it was officially announced from Cairo the very same day that General Sir Thomas Blamey, the Australian Commander-in-Chief, had been appointed second-in-command to the British generalissimo, Sir Archibald Wavell—who would hardly have taken this step had there been any differences at all between himself and his Australian colleague.

What They Say " Down Under "

Meanwhile, here are some of the comments made by responsible Australian and New Zealand leaders on Axis attempts to represent the people " down under " as full of panic and resentment :—

Mr. Menzies, Australian Premier : " They were anxious, as brave men might afford to be anxious, but their anxiety would never affect their resolution to go through with this war and finish it as it should be finished."

Mr. Spender, Australian Army Minister, rebutting Nazi allegations that no more troops were to be sent overseas : " There is no foundation for such propaganda. The Germans have found that the Australians are no quitters, but people who, so far from walking out in times of adversity, become more determined to see the thing through."

Mr. Fraser, New Zealand Premier, warned the enemy not to mistake that freedom of discussion which is usual in democratic countries for evidence of " dissensions which might work out to his advantage."

Mr. Curtin, Australian Labour leader : " It would be wrong to construe liberty of speech as evidence of doubt........Australian Labour is unyieldingly opposed to aggression."

Fighting Britain's Battles

A week ago Goebbels was screaming that the British were forcing the Greeks to fight Britain's battles; more recently, he has changed his tune to an accusation that General Wavell had sent only Anzac troops to Greece, while British troops were allowed to " shelter in Cairo."

Mr. Churchill's periodical reviews of the war have a happy knack of disposing of some of the more blatant of Goebbels' lies, and this is what the Premier said on Sunday about the proportion of British and Anzac troops in Greece :

> " An important part of the mobile portion of the Army of the Nile was sent to Greece in fulfilment of our pledge. It happened that the divisions available and best suited to the task were from New Zealand and Australia, and only about half the troops who took part in this dengerous episode came from the Mother Country."

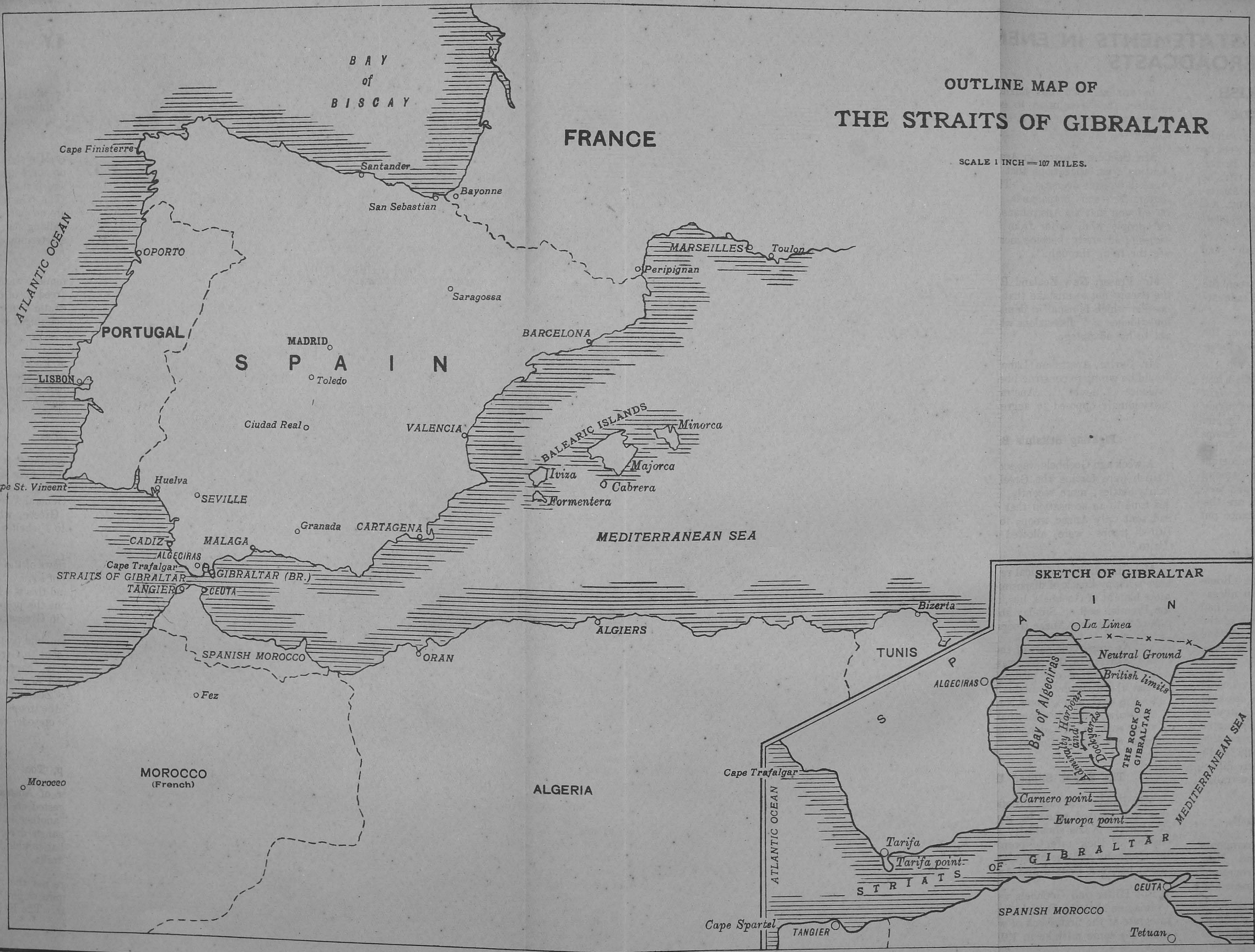
The Kaiser Slipped Up, Too

Mr. Fadden, Acting Premier of Australia, was well advised when he suggested on April 26 that the Nazis should try " another line " instead of their intense propaganga drive to tell Germany and the neutrals that trouble had arisen between Britain and Australia.

But Hitler and Goebbels were not the first to imagine that the British Empire would disintegrate at the first shock of war. The Kaiser made the same mistake in 1914.

OUTLINE MAP OF THE STRAITS OF GIBRALTAR

SCALE 1 INCH = 107 MILES.



Reg. 53/1 Copies 1800

Heliozinco., Survey Office, Madras, 1941.

Said Mr. Churchill before leaving this subject: "I see that German propaganda is trying to make bad blood between us and Australia by making out that we have used them to do what we would not have asked of the British Army. I shall leave it to Australia to deal with that taunt."

The Lie-Factory Works Overtime

For over a week India has been bombarded with German and Italian wireless stories of terriffic Aix air attacks on "dense streams of transports" evacuating British forces from Greece, combined, of course, with extravagant claims of transport sinkings.

This line of propaganda seems to have been worldwide, for on April 25 the naval correspondent of the London *Times* had something to say about this lying campaign. On Monday, he says, one enemy communiqué claimed that six laden transports were sunk totalling 31,000 tons. The next day another communiqué claimed "seven ships sunk, totalling 27,000 tons, 12 more damaged, a large warship hit by a bomb in Suda Bay, etc." The climax of invention was reached on Wednesday, when the Nazis claimed to have killed 30,000 troops and thousands of bodies were stated to have been washed ashore.

As the *Times* expert comments, "this last story, thrown in no doubt as corroborative detail, betrays the falsity of the whole string of inventions. For even if it were true that British transports had been sunk laden with British troops leaving Greece—through there is no reason to suppose it is true—the enemy could not possibly have knowledge of bodies washed ashore", since at that time they did not occupy any shore on which such a thing could happen.

Only Another Kite

Once again, these wild Axis claims are seen to have had a double purpose—first, to spread confusion and dismay among the Allies and the neutrals, and second, to elicit British denials which might possibly give the enemy the information they wanted.

To quote the *Times* correspondent again: "The enemy has no doubt made air attacks on British shipping in the Aegean and Eastern Mediterranean, and would very much like to know the results of those attacks........ The British Command is likely to refuse to be drawn."

Lies in Libya

Dr. Goebbels has been conducting so grandiloquent a campaign of lies and misrepresentations lately that only occasionally has he condescended to offer mere details. On April 21, however, one of his bulletins incautiously remarked that four British fighters had been destroyed in Libya, no Nazi aircraft being lost. The truth is that in operations over Libya, East Africa and Malta on that particular day, the sole British loss was one machine, a fighter.

But in Libya alone, on April 19, two German fighters were shot down over El Gazala aerodrome and one Italian bomber was destroyed on the ground there, while a German dive-bomber was destroyed by anti-aircraft gun-fire at Tobruk—which Goebbels claimed was on the point of being evacuated by the British nearly a fortnight ago!

BROADCASTS IN ASIATIC LANGUAGES

Basra—and Berlin Fantasies

Referring to the landing of British and Indian troops in Basra which was misrepresented as "the invasion of Iraq," Dr. Goebbels' Hindustani broadcast of April 22 went on to add that it was customary with the British to invade other countries. Actually these troops have been landed in Basra under the Anglo-Iraq treaty of 1930 which provides that should one of the parties be at war, the other party should come to her aid in the capacity of an ally and provide all facilities and assistance in her power including the use of railways, rivers, ports, aerodromes and means of communication.

And as for the myth of Britain invading other countries, even Dr. Goebbels would be hard put to explain away the nature of the Nazi moves in Poland, Denmark, Norway, Holland, Belgium, Greece and Yugoslavia.

The Axis broadcasts continued to misrepresent the British move and stated, on April 23, that the Iraqi Government was protesting against what was quite erroneously characterised as an attack on the neutrality of Iraq. A communiqué issued by the Iraq Government, however, described these reports as quite unfounded. It was pointed out that the British Government had sought permission for certain of its troops to pass through Iraq in conformity with the provisions of the Anglo-Iraq treaty, to which the Iraq Government had readily agreed.

On April 25 again the Nazi broadcast in Persian described landing of the British and Indian troops in Basra as the strangulation of Iraq's freedom. The Baghdad paper *Al Ahwal*, however, has different views. It says: "The honouring of a pledged word does not in any circumstance conflict with the sovereign rights of independent Iraq. The fulfilment of her undertaking to a friendly State is striking evidence of Iraq's firm resolve to maintain her dignity and political honour."

Greeks and Dominion Solidarity

The German broadcasts in Hindustani and Persian quoted on April 25 an unnamed American correspondent as stating that Britain sent Australian and New Zealand troops to Greece to become a prey to German bombers. As Mr. Churchill has revealed in his speech of April 27, it so happened that the divisions available and best suited to the task were from New Zealand and Australia and only half the troops who took part in this dangerous episode came from Great Britain. But, quite apart from the British Premier's revelation that the British fought shoulder to shoulder with their Dominion and Greek comrades in the battle of the Balkans, this wilfully mischievous enemy propaganda is best countered by the New Zealand Prime Minister, Mr. Fraser, who says: "The despatch of British Imperial Troops to Greece was a matter of honour. The New Zealand Government was fully consulted on the question of sending of New Zealand troops to Greece and fully accepted responsibility in the matter". Mr. Spender, the Army Minister in Australia, has also declared that there was no foundation whatever for such German propaganda.

Another Nazi Lie

Berlin's Hindustani broadcast of April 24 quoted comments by "military and political circles of the German capital" on the surrender of the Greek Armies on two fronts. These comments allege that "the British forces deserted the Greeks at a critical juncture." As to the Greeks, isolated on the Thracian front, at no time did British forces occupy positions east of the Vardar valley, so there was no question of deserting their allies. Incidentally, this army did not surrender as a whole; part of it has been evacuated by sea, with the aid of British naval power.

The Greek soldiers in the Epirus sector of the Albanian front were reluctant to withdraw before Italians over whom they had demonstrated their superiority again and again in the previous six months. They were outflanked by fast-moving German motorised columns, which prevented their withdrawal according to plan and forced them to surrender.

Finally, British forces in Greece were under the supreme command of General Papagos, Greek Commander-in-Chief.

Bombardment of Tripoli

In keeping with the Nazi practice of talking only about their success and ignoring reverses altogether, the German broadcast of April 22, enlarged on "Britain's defeats on all fronts." Actually it was during the period covered by this communiqué that the British Navy bombarded the harbour of Tripoli which caused severe damage to six enemy supply ships and one destroyer and hit a naval headquarters power station and various military stores. Moreover, despite Nazi boasts, the German advance in Libya was slowed down, and heavy casualties were inflicted on the Nazi armies in Greece.

Czechs under the "Crooked Cross"

The Germans' Hindustani, Persian and Arabic broadcasts of April 20, would have us believe that the Czechs are proud to be working with the Axis in creating a new order for Europe.

The Czechs, however, have no reason to be grateful to their Nazi overlords. Every vestige of Czech cultural, political and economic life which they enjoyed under the old republic has vanished. The building of Czech elementary and secondary schools is forbidden. German schools are built instead and there is not a single Czech University open. Besides, all men between 16 and 70 must work where their master orders them. More than 2½ lakhs of these men have been deported over the frontier into Germany.

N.B.—Please file the Madras War Review regularly for future reference.

[With the compliments of the Director of Information, Madras.]

MADRAS: PRINTED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT, GOVERNMENT PRESS.